PLANAR

Planar® ContentSmart™ 3.0.20 Software User Manual

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PLANAR

Table of Contents

Planar® ContentSmart™ 3.0.20 0

Software User Manual.....0

1. Introduction 1

1.1. Feature Highlights 1

1.2. ContentSmart Overview..... 1

2. Installation 2

2.1. Minimum System Requirements..... 2

2.2. Setup Process 3

3. Operation.....4

3.1. Step 1 of 3: Select Media Player Model 5

3.2. Step 2 of 3: Select and Program a Playlist Schedule 5

3.3. What is a Playlist? 6

3.4. Video Input..... 7

3.5. Widget Templates 8

3.6. Weekly Schedule Mode..... 10

3.7. Step 3 of 3: Export Playlist Files via Network 12

3.8. Export Playlist Files via USB Drive 14

3.9. Software and Firmware Updates 14

3.10. Troubleshooting 15

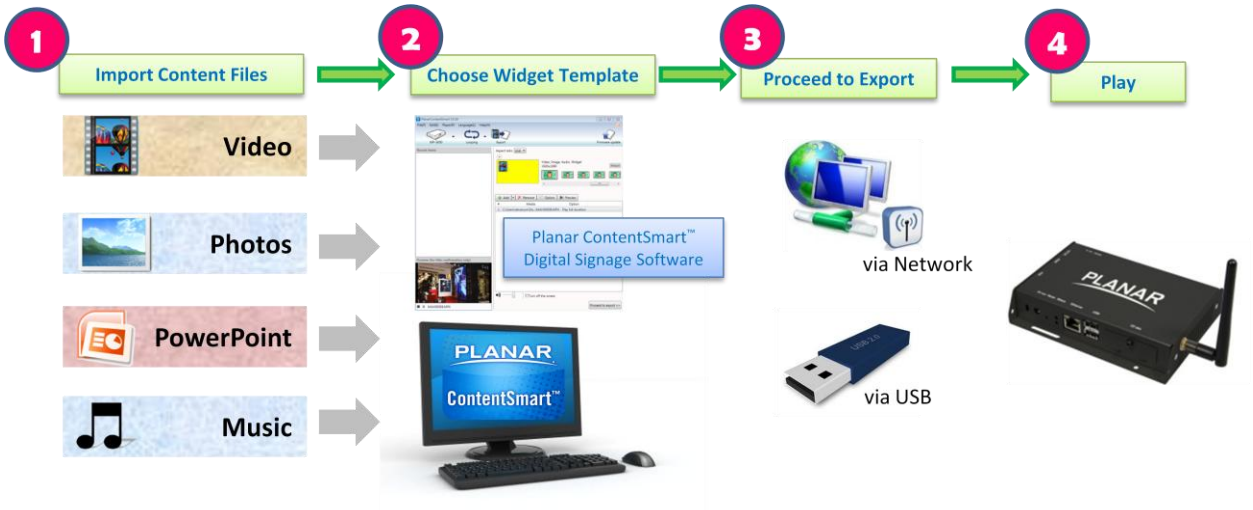
1. Introduction

Welcome to Planar® ContentSmart™ Software, an easy-to-use application that allows you to create digital signage content using existing assets (video, images, PowerPoint, music). Using the pre-built templates (standard or HTML5), simply click and drag content into each zone within the template, then export the playlist to the Planar ContentSmart Media Player. ContentSmart will help you deliver the right message to the right audience at the right time.

1.1. Feature Highlights

- 13 standard templates for designing content
- 7 HTML5 widget templates for designing content
- Publish PowerPoint slides directly onto the Media Player
    - (requires PowerPoint 2003/2007/2010. Static image only, no animating effect)
- Easy setup for multi-zone layout
- Image fit, crop, and stretch options
- Supports Video Input sequence in playlist scheduling
- Supports full screen portrait or landscape mode
- Supports GPIO/buttons layout
- Supports repeat Looping or Weekly scheduling
- Schedule video display on/off
- Auto detect player's IP, MAC address
- Supports MP3 scheduling
- Minute-accurate time slot scheduling
- Firmware upgrade wizard

1.2. ContentSmart Overview



2. Installation

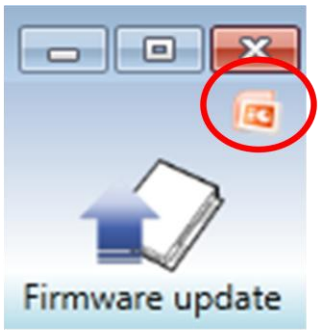
2.1. Minimum system requirements

Window XP/Vista/7 Operating System	**1 GHz** AMD or Intel CPU
.DirectX 9	**512 MB** of system memory
.NET Framework 3.51	**20 GB** hard drive space

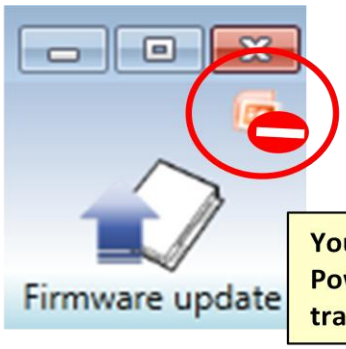
(Later versions are also compatible)

Windows Media Player 10 or later required for video previews.

PowerPoint 2003, 2007, or 2010 required for PowerPoint slideshow feature.



PowerPoint Installed

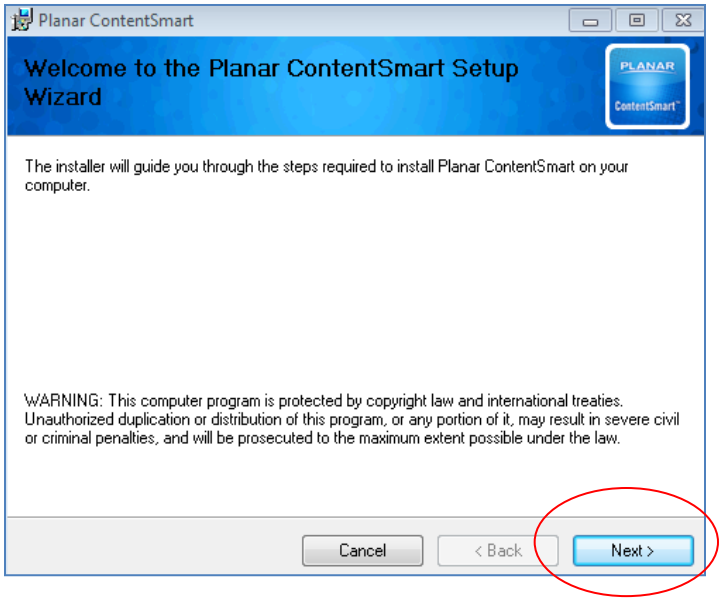


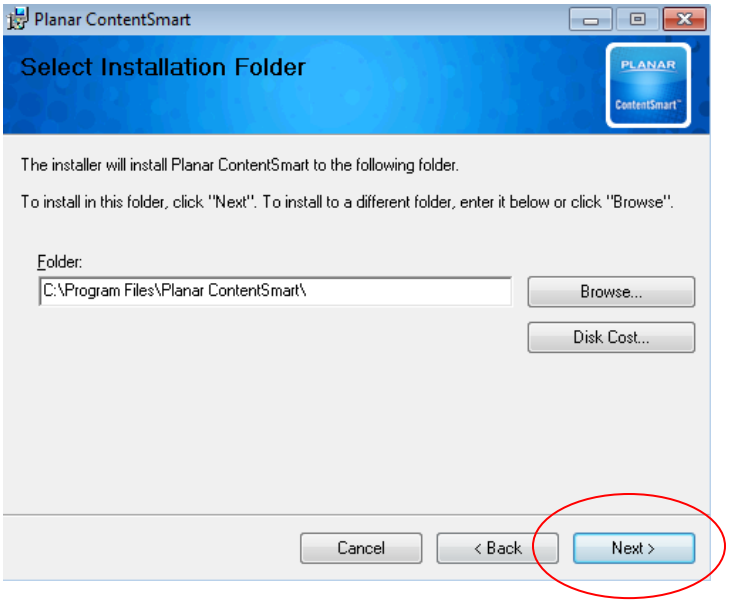
PowerPoint Not Installed

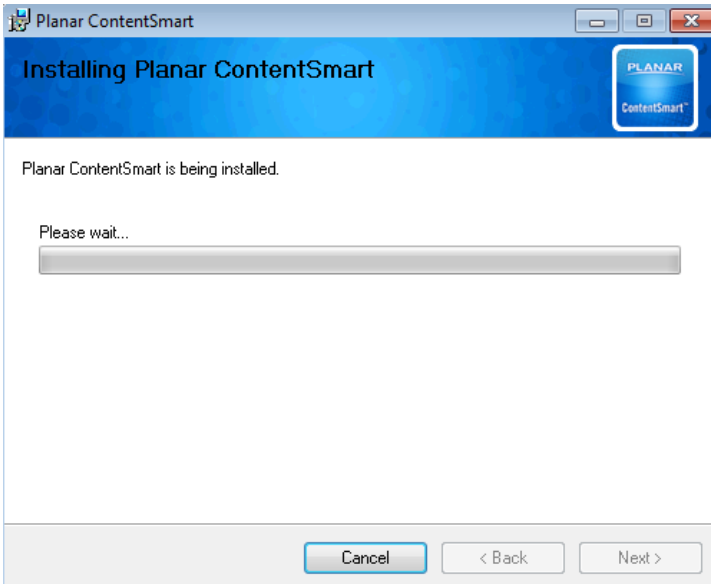
Your system does not have PowerPoint installed. PowerPoint transcode function is disabled.

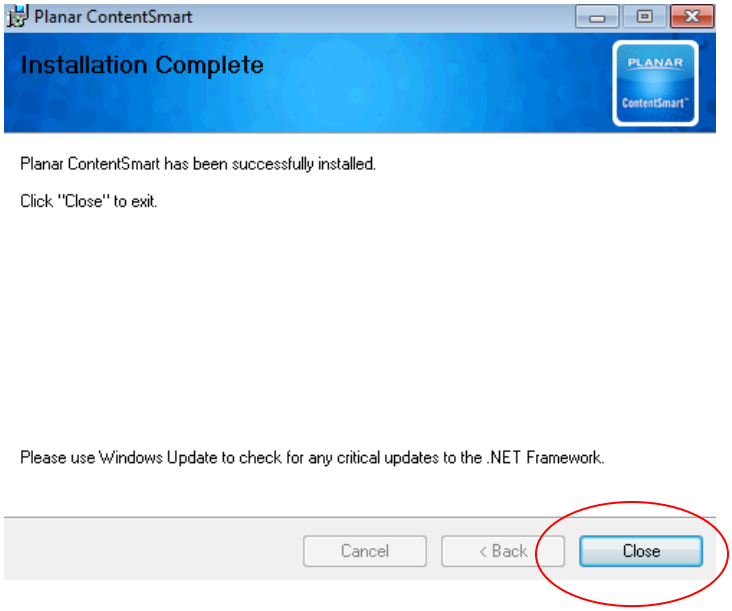
2.2. Setup Process

Insert the ContentSmart Software CD and the installer should pop up automatically. If it does not auto start, double-click on “setup.exe” located on your CD using Windows Explorer. Run the setup wizard and follow the step by step instructions. Close the installer to finish installation.


Planar ContentSmart
Welcome to the Planar ContentSmart Setup Wizard
The installer will guide you through the steps required to install Planar ContentSmart on your computer.
WARNING: This computer program is protected by copyright law and international treatie
Unauthorized duplication or distribution of this program, or any portion of it, may result in severe civil or criminal penalties, and will be prosecuted to the maximum extent possible under the law.
Cancel
< Back
Next >


Planar ContentSmart
Select Installation Folder
The installer will install Planar ContentSmart to the following folder.
To install in this folder, click "Next". To install to a different folder, enter it below or click "Browse".
Folder:
C:\Program Files\Planar ContentSmart\
Browse...
Disk Cost...
Cancel
< Back
Next >

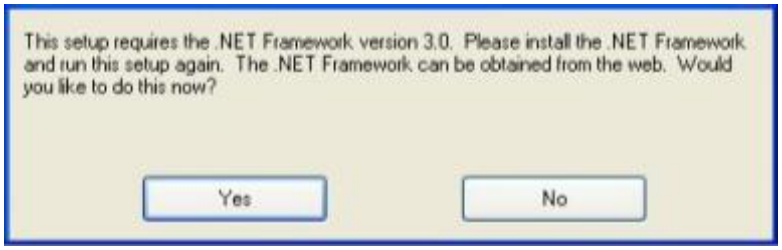



Planar ContentSmart
Installation Complete
Planar ContentSmart has been successfully installed.
Click "Close" to exit.
Please use Windows Update to check for any critical updates to the .NET Framework.
Cancel
< Back
Close

Note: If you haven't installed .NET Framework 3.51, you will be prompted to do so. If it is already installed, please proceed to the next page.

For Windows XP only: .Net Installation

Windows .NET Framework 3.51 is included on the CD and will be installed if absent from your system. Click Yes and follow the prompts to install it.

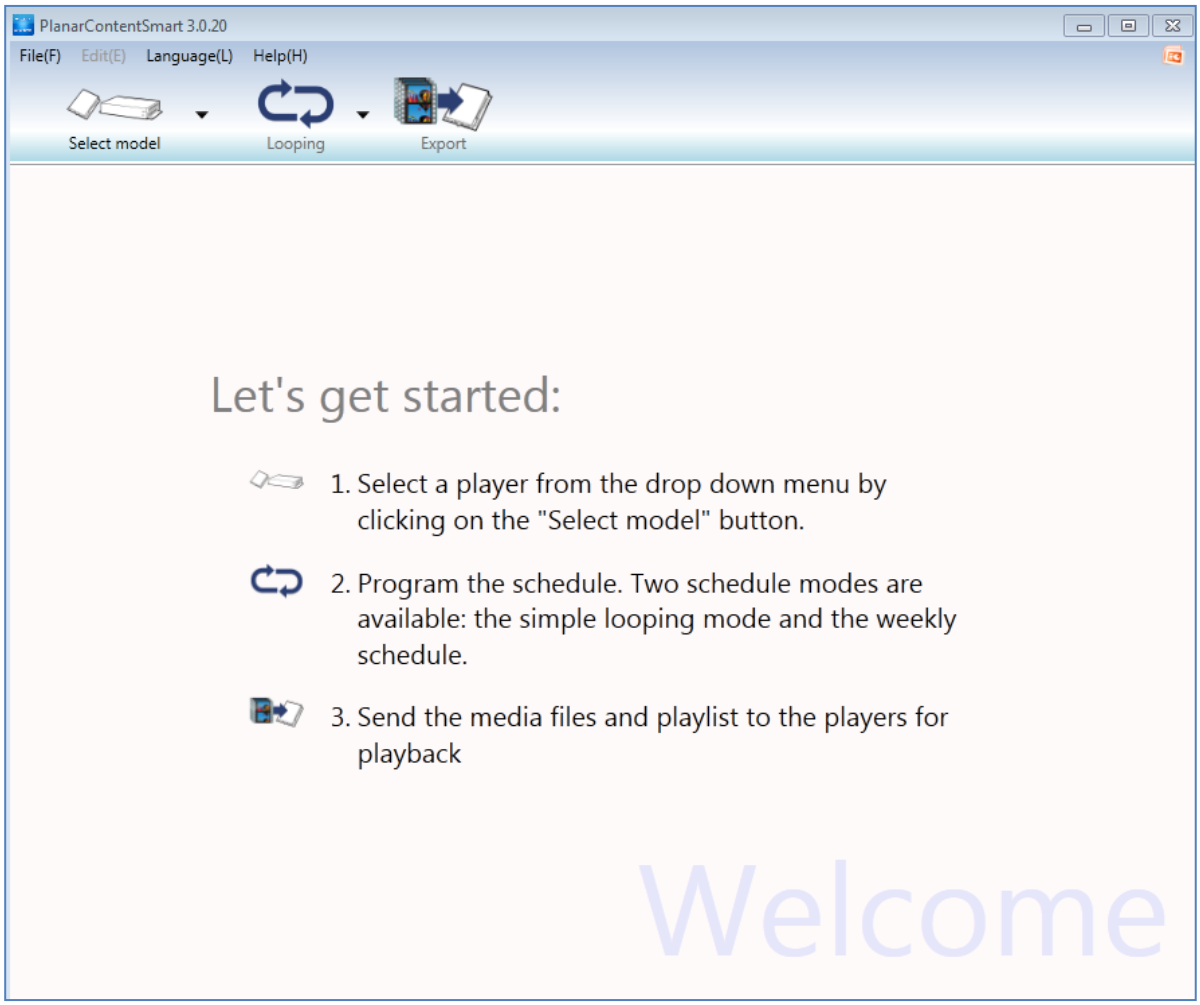

This setup requires the .NET Framework version 3.0. Please install the .NET Framework and run this setup again. The .NET Framework can be obtained from the web. Would you like to do this now?
Yes
No

For improved performance in ContentSmart

The latest Microsoft .NET 3.51 may offer improved performance in ContentSmart. You can install it from an installer included on the Software CD.

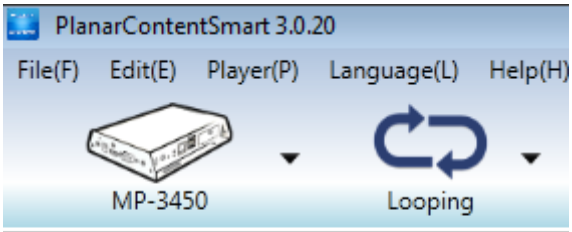
3. Operation

The following dialog box will be displayed only once, at first launch:


PlanarContentSmart 3.0.20
File(F)
Edit(E)
Language(L)
Help(H)
Select model
Looping
Export
Let's get started:
1. Select a player from the drop down menu by clicking on the "Select model" button.
2. Program the schedule. Two schedule modes are available: the simple looping mode and the weekly schedule.
3. Send the media files and playlist to the players for playback
Welcome

3.1. Step 1 of 3: Select Media Player Model

Select a player model* from the drop down list. Player Model (MP-3450)



*Note: MP-3450 is already pre-selected for you.

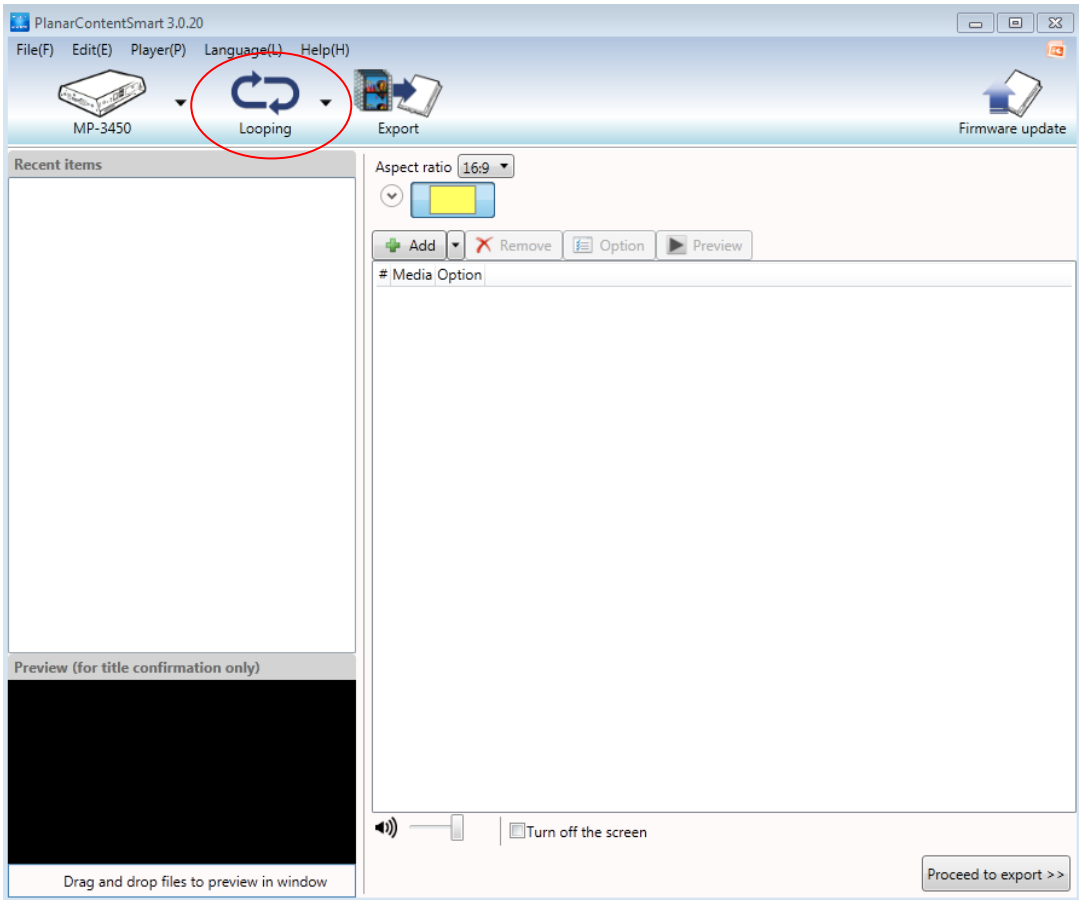
3.2. Step 2 of 3: Select and Program a Playlist Schedule

For a single-playlist with repeating playback, choose **Looping mode**. The Looping schedule is always selected by default.

For multiple-playlists with weekly playback, choose **Weekly schedule mode**.

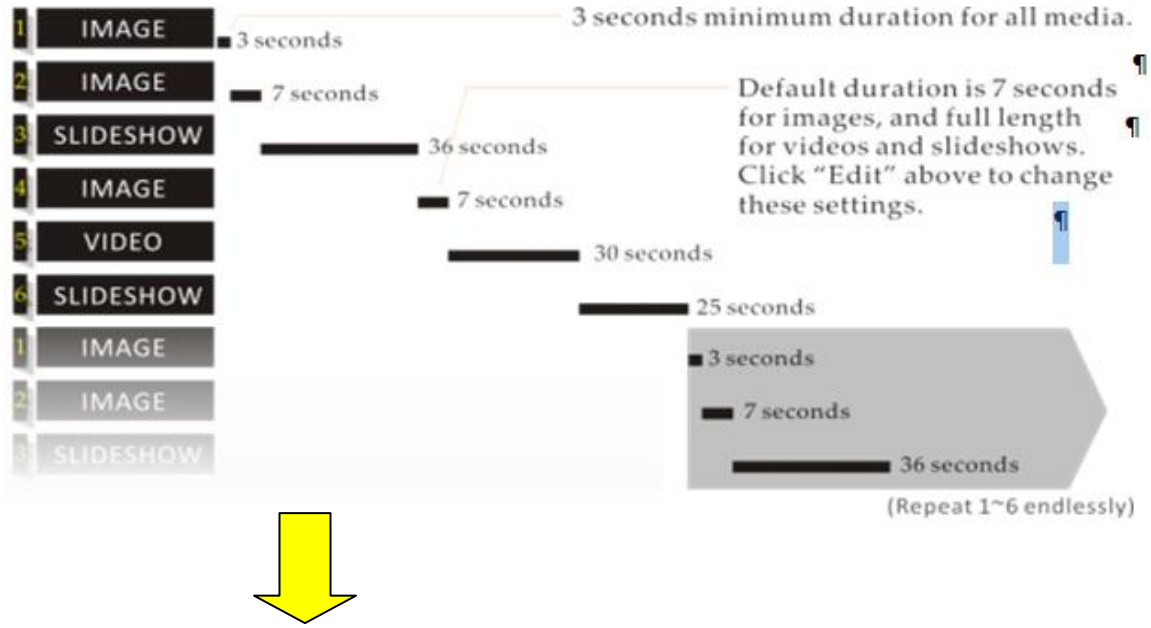
Looping/Weekly schedule mode

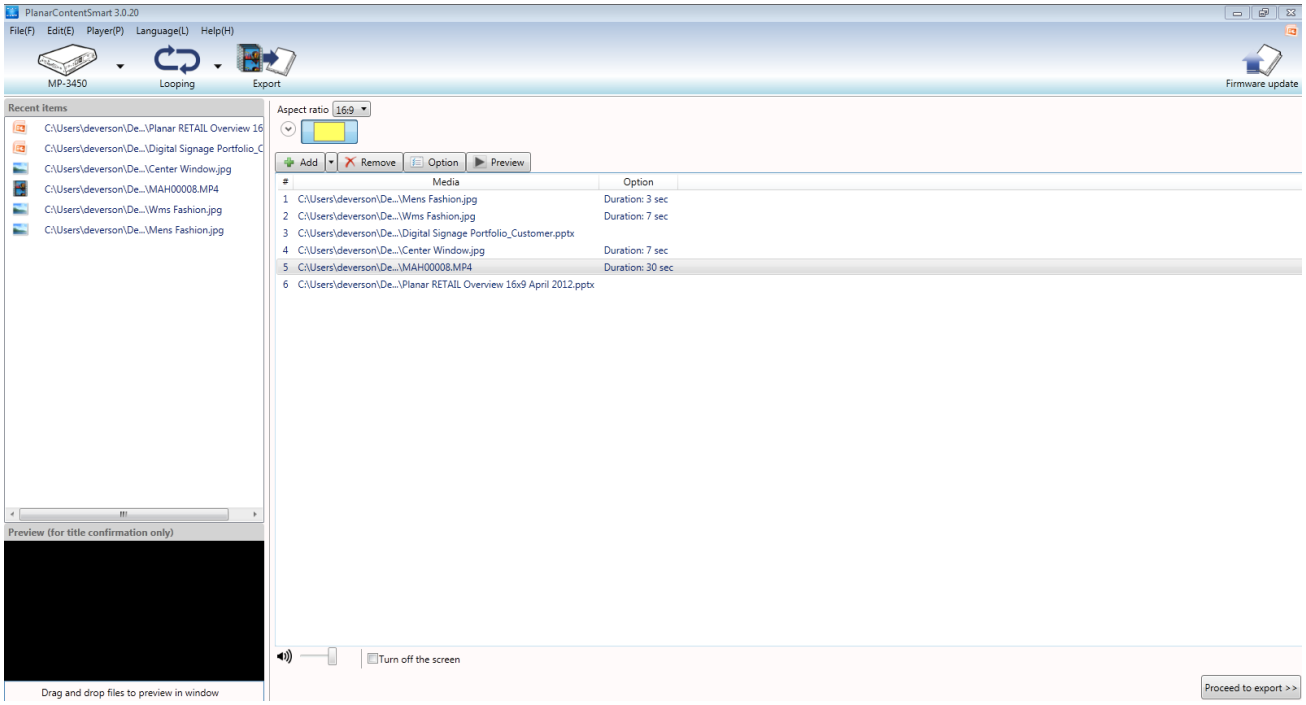
To switch between **Looping** and **Weekly schedule** modes, click on the second button drop down menu.



3.3. What is a Playlist?

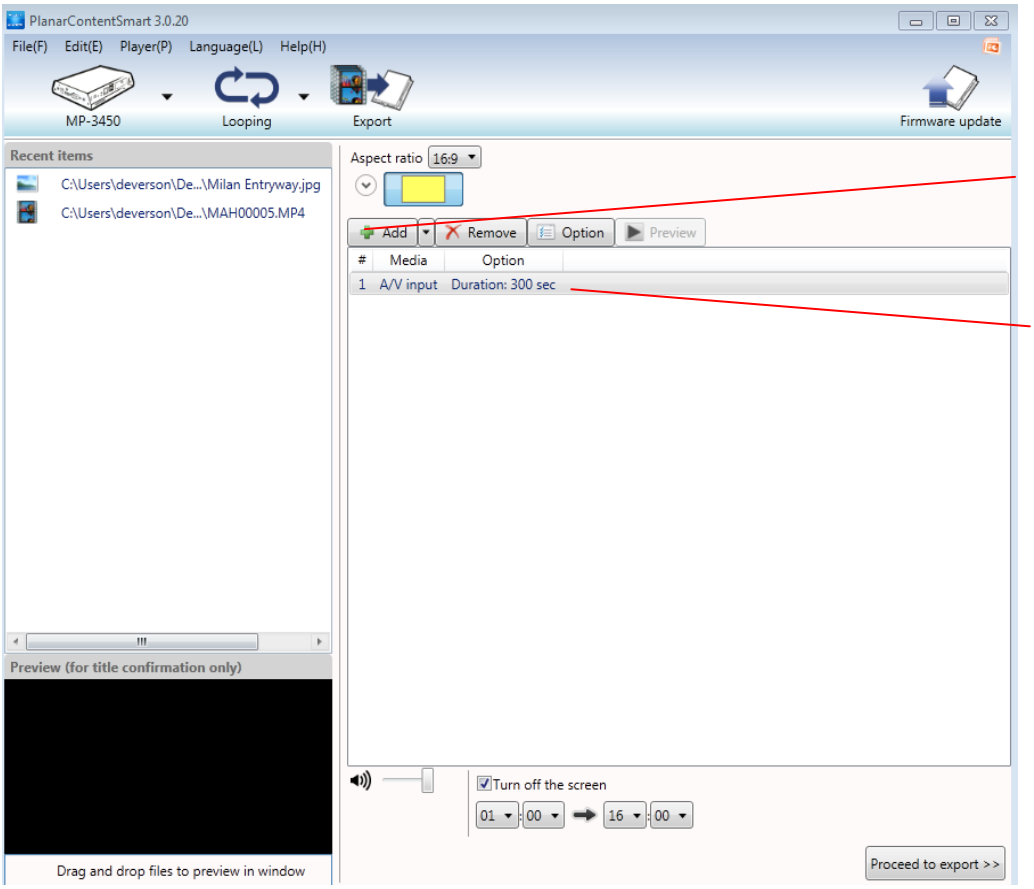
A playlist may consist of a sequence of images, videos, or PowerPoint slideshows which are played repeatedly in a specified order and duration (rendering example below using 6 different assets in a playlist).





3.4. Video Input

A playlist may include A/V-in (Audio/Video Input) sequence. This is a great feature for live TV. Please make sure the video input device is properly connected before adding this sequence to the playlist.



To add Video input sequence, please follow these steps:

1. Click the down arrow key next to the "+Add" button and select "A/V input".

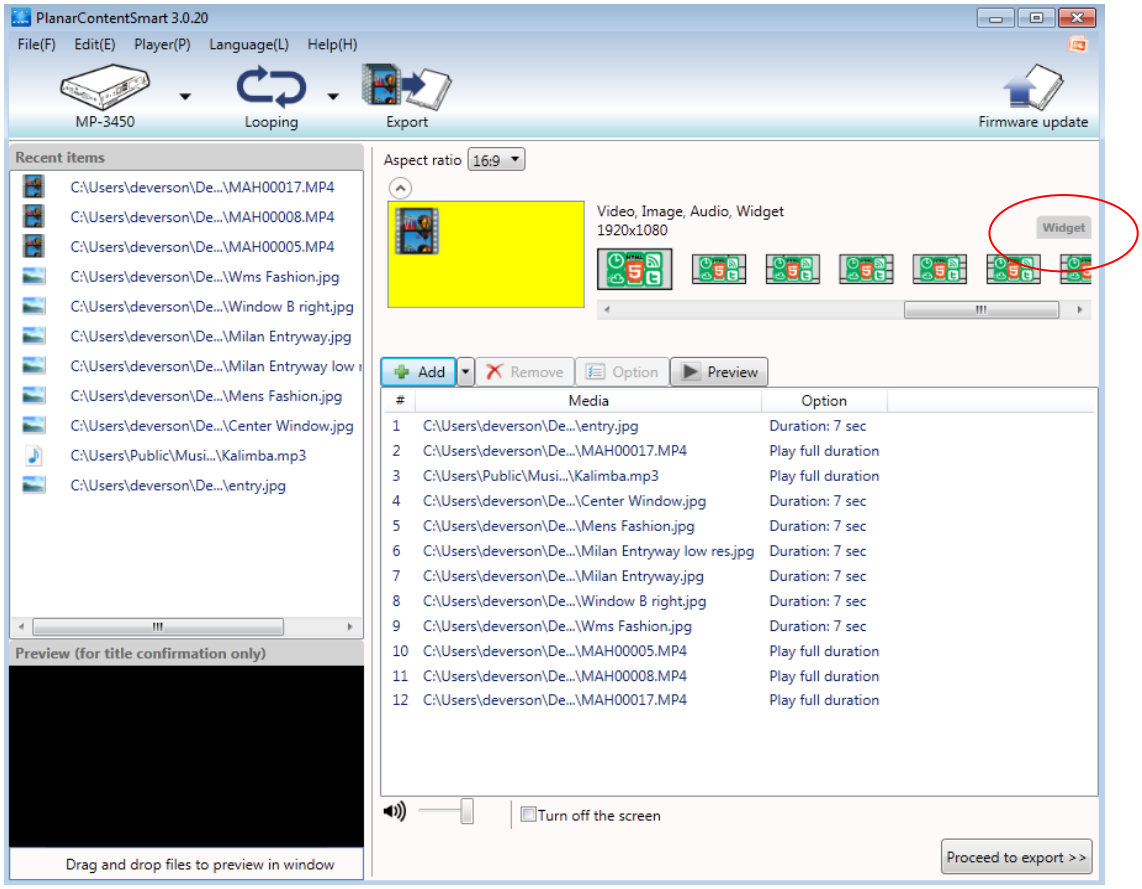
2. Select and highlight the (A/V input) in the playlist and click on the "Option" button. This will bring up Video input option.

3. The default duration is 300 seconds (5 min). It can be changed to any desired time in seconds.

3.5. Widget Templates

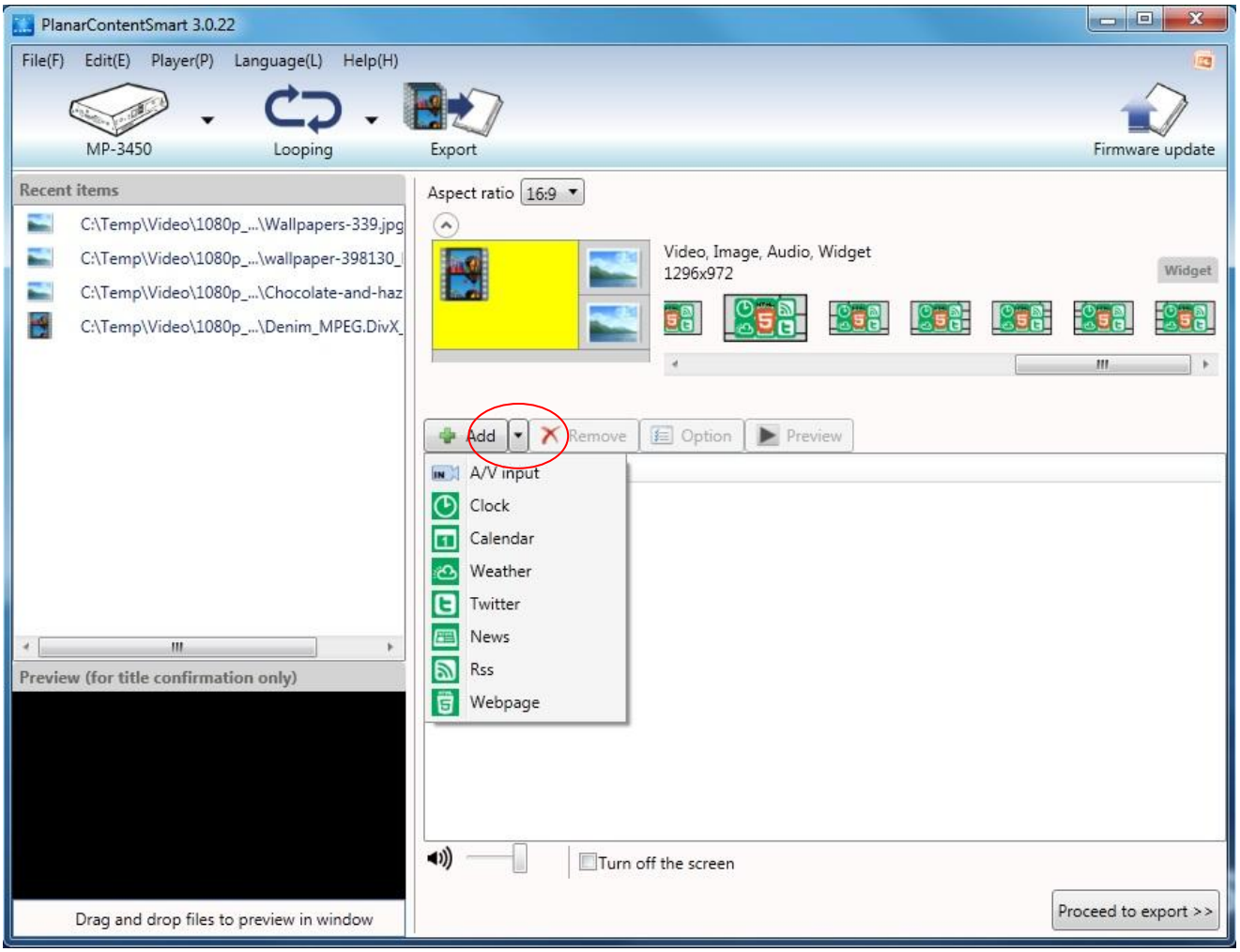
To use HTML5 Widgets in a playlist, please follow these steps:

1. Expand layout options by clicking on the Widget shortcut on the far right to jump to the Widget Templates:

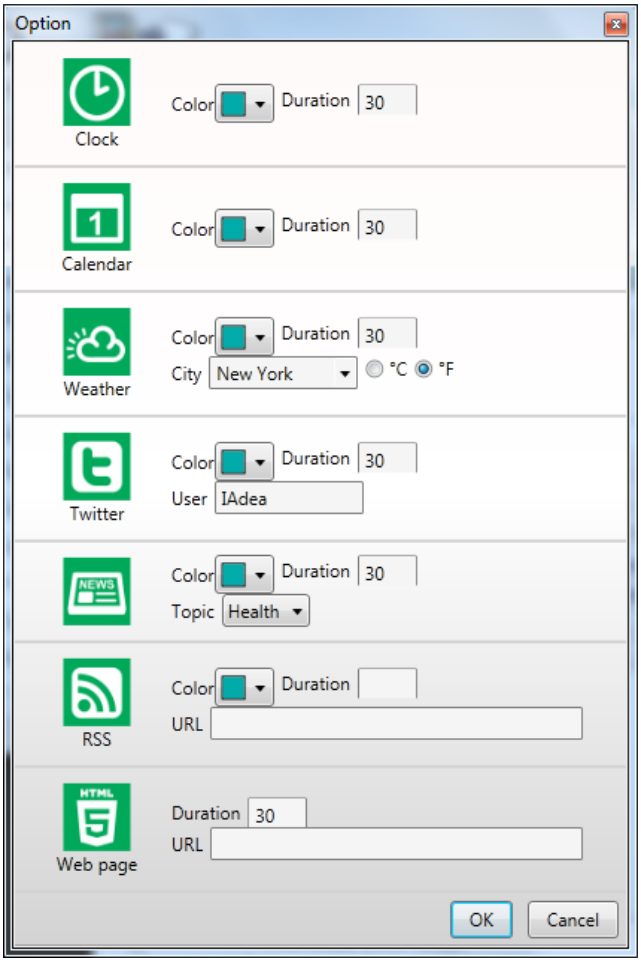


2. Choose one of the Templates that have Smart Widgets icon:

3. Select the zone you want to use within the Template then ‘click’ the down arrow key next to the “+Add” button. Choose one of 7 Smart Widgets to add them to a zone within the Widget template:

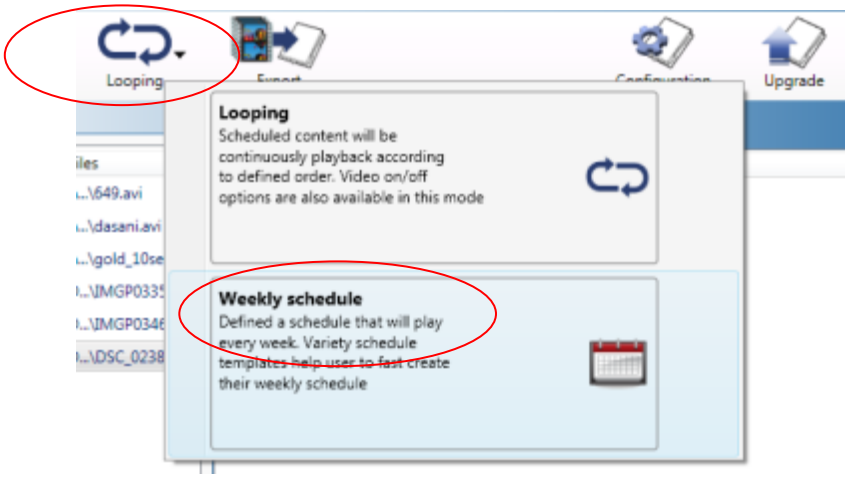


4. Some of the widgets will prompt for settings if the settings are mandatory. However you can always change the setting by selecting and highlight the widgets in playlist and click on the “Option” button.

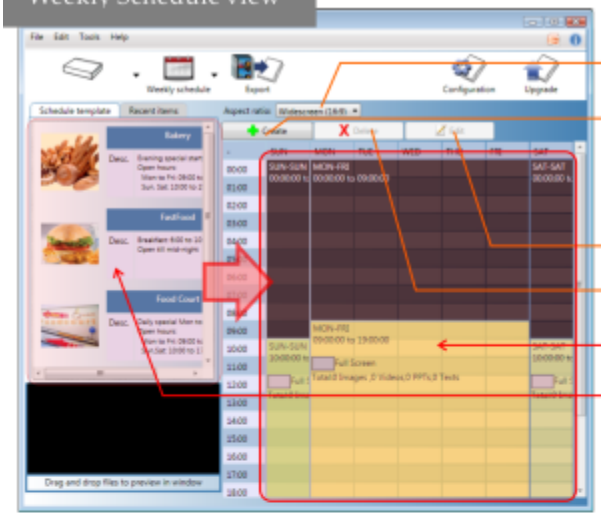


3.6. Weekly Schedule Mode

Select “**Weekly Schedule**” from the drop-down menu to switch from Looping mode (default) to Weekly schedule mode. Weekly schedule mode provides finer control over your playlists. While Looping mode plays several files in a specified order repeatedly, Weekly Schedule mode lets you specify several different playlists to be played at different times of the day and week.


Looping
Upgrade
Looping
Scheduled content will be continuously playback according to defined order. Video on/off options are also available in this mode
Weekly schedule
Defined a schedule that will play every week. Variety schedule templates help user to fast create their weekly schedule

Weekly Schedule view



Choose the aspect ratio of your display

"Create" a playback time slot or set a video-off slot (see below)

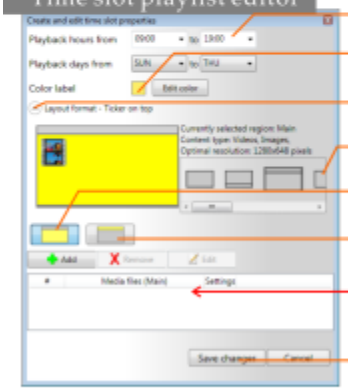
"Edit" time slot in a pop-up window

"Delete" a playback time slot

Calendar view area of schedule

Schedule templates is a collection of schedule presets to allow quick customization. Drag and drop a template to the calendar view area to apply the preset.

Time slot playlist editor



Specify the Days, Hours and Minutes of this playlist

Choose a color label to easily identify schedule

Click the Layout format button to expand the layout editor

Select a layout pattern from the horizontal scroll-list

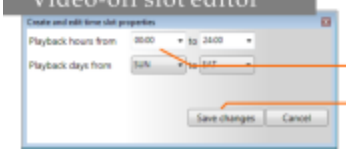
Select a region to schedule related contents (i.e. text for Text region)

Repeat for each remaining region

Add videos, PPT files, images, and text (.txt) files to playlist (note that not all contents may be assigned to all regions)

Save changes to complete this playlist

Video-off slot editor



Video-off slot allows your display to enter sleep mode

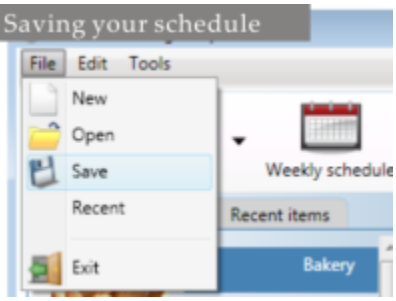
Specify the Days, Hours and Minutes for video-off

Save changes to complete settings

Saving your schedule

You can save your schedule settings and edit them later rather than starting over from scratch each time. Click on the File(F) icon on the top-left to save the current schedule settings or to open previously saved ones.

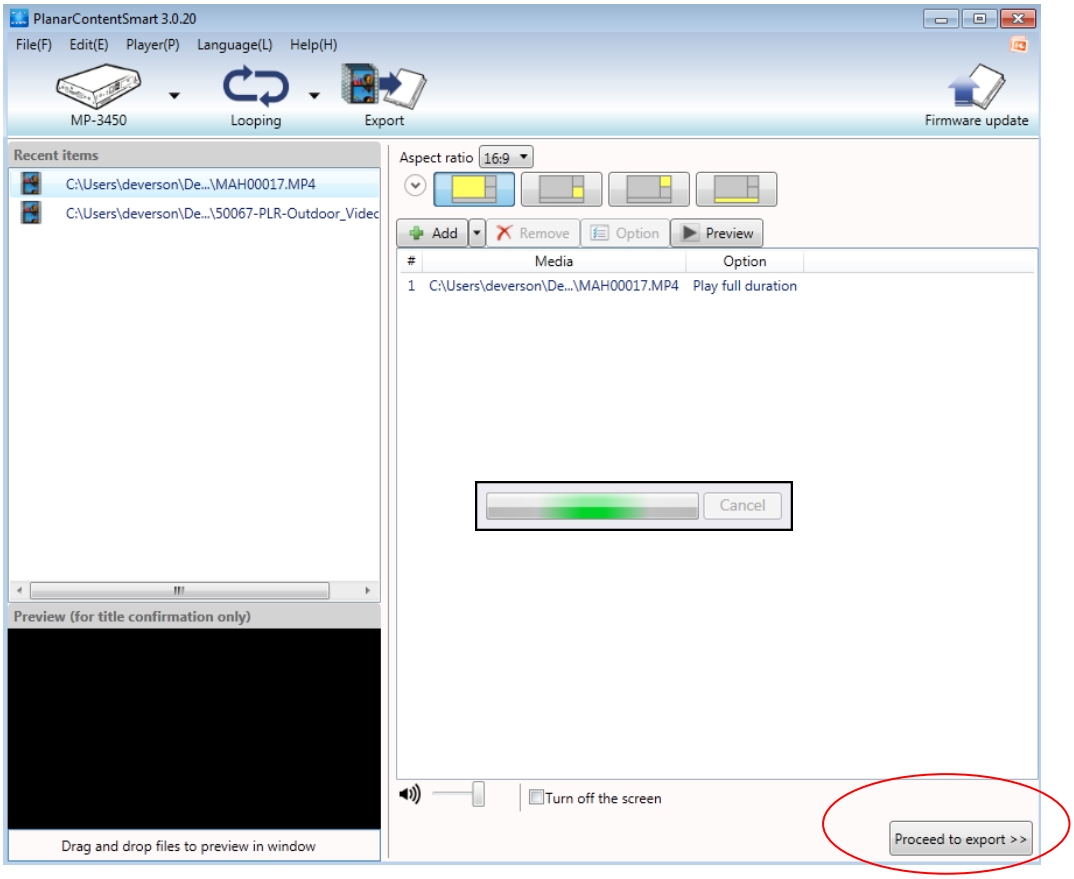
Saving your schedule



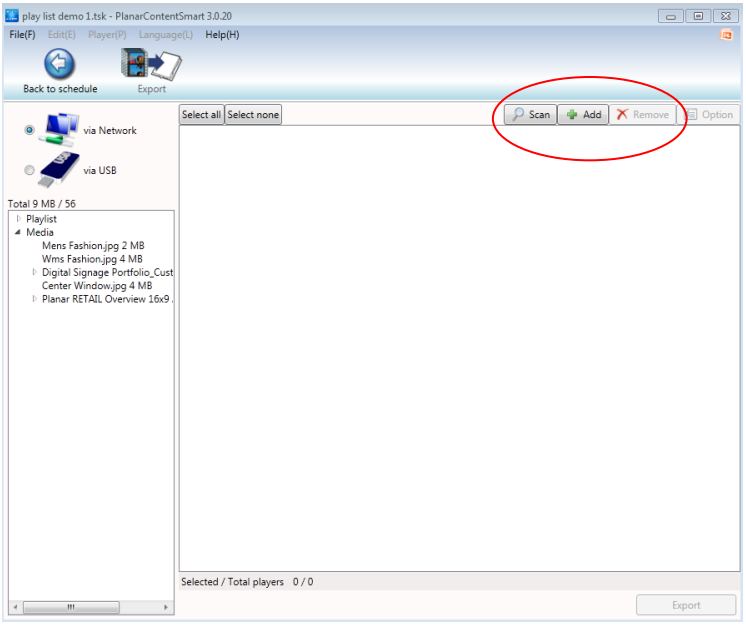
3.7. Step 3 of 3: Export Playlist Files via Network

The final step with ContentSmart lets you export all files and playlists to the ContentSmart Media Player. You can export via network or removable media via USB.

1. Once you are ready with your playlists, hit “Proceed to export>>”

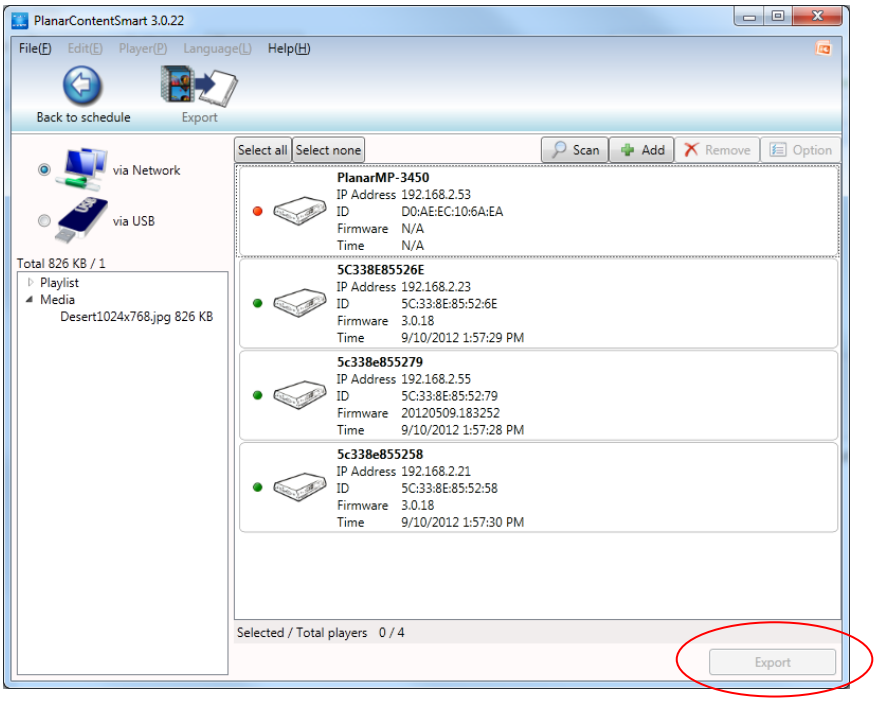


2. The next screen should show all available ContentSmart Media Players. If you do not see your player, you can hit “Scan” or manually add the player using its IP address via “Add”.



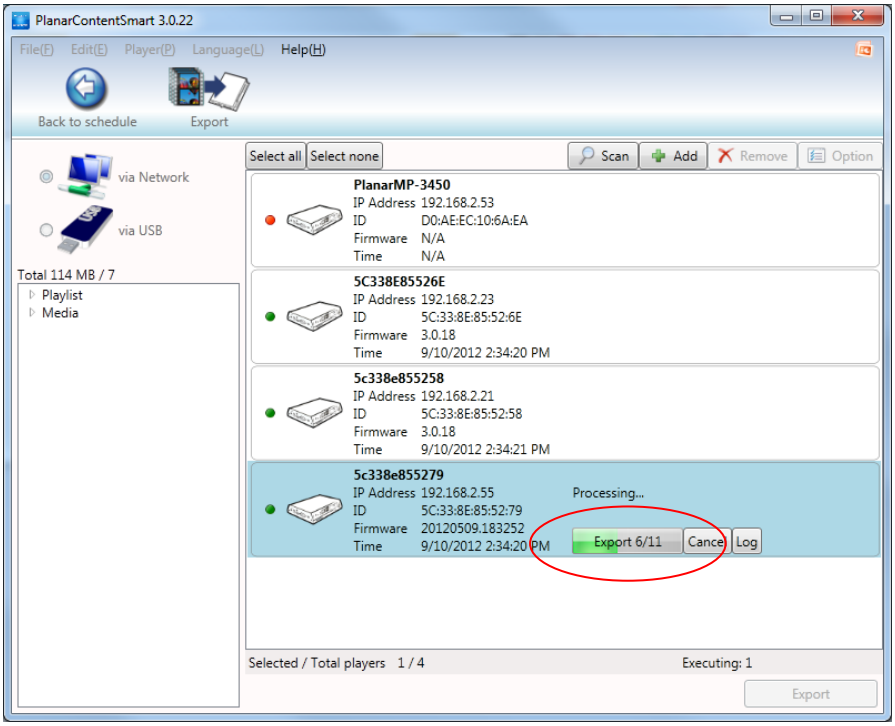
3. Multiple players may be detected and more than one player can be synchronized at once. Click and highlight each player's box you wish to upload content to. Click the "Export" button to update contents.

Green ● : player is online
Red ● : previously detected but currently offline
Question mark (?) : unknown player or password incorrect



4. Once you have highlighted the players you want to update, hit "Export".....the progress bar provides an estimate of the exporting progress.

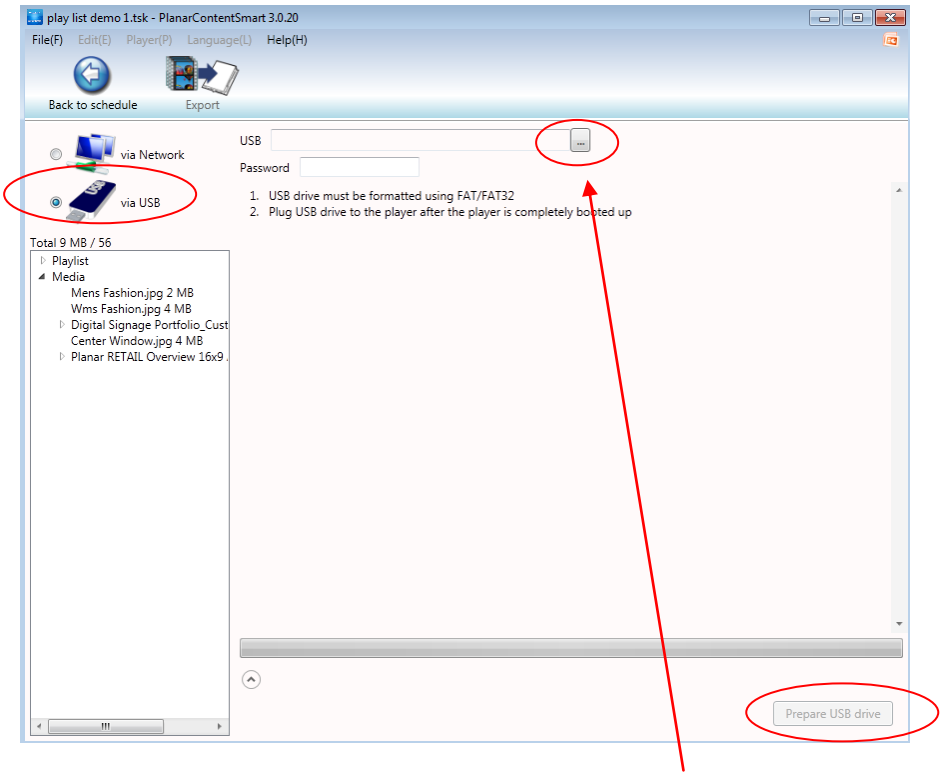
- Once synchronization is complete, the player(s) will begin to play the new playlist.



3.8. Export via USB Drive

If you prefer to update contents without a network, you can export contents to a USB drive and plug it into the player's USB port for synchronization.

1. Select "via USB" export mode.



2. Attach an USB drive to your computer's USB port (Use the drop down option to locate your USB drive) and click the "Prepare USB drive" button.
3. You will be prompted to keep or delete previous contents.
4. The progress bar shows you an estimate of the exporting progress.
5. Upon transfer completion (all files copied), remove the USB drive and insert it into the player. The on-screen display will show you the file(s) being copied.
6. Upon synchronization completion, the player begins to play the new playlist.
7. Remove the USB drive from the player.

3.9. Software and Firmware Updates

Updates provide enhanced features and reliability for player systems.

Firmware updates

Firmware upgrade poses certain risks and in rare cases, failure during the upgrade process may cause the device to stop functioning and need to be returned for warranty service.

Please refer to: www.planar.com/support/downloads for any firmware updates.

3.10. Troubleshooting

This section is intended as a quick reference for frequently encountered issues.

Known issues

1. ContentSmart Media player hardware configuration is not yet supported through the software. Please refer to the player's user manual for USB keyboard menu configuration method.

2. The News & RSS widgets are designed to display in ticker zone. Scheduling them in other area may result in cutting off some text.

Player Mode Settings

If your player cannot synchronize contents, you may need to switch to another operation mode. Please refer to the player configuration section of user manual on changing the operation mode.

Regardless of the display resolution, all videos are played in 16:9 or 4:3 aspect ratio, depending on widescreen or standard ratio LCD displays.

PowerPoint Slideshow Feature Availability

The Planar ContentSmart Software has a PowerPoint slideshow feature that requires PowerPoint 2003, 2007, or 2010 installed. If PowerPoint is not detected, a PowerPoint disabled icon is shown.

If you would like to use the slideshow feature, a trial edition of PowerPoint may be obtained free of charge from the Microsoft Office website at: http://office.microsoft.com/

JPEG image compatibility notice

The media players do not support progressive/interlaced JPEG images. Only baselines JPEGs are supported. To convert JPEG to baseline format, simply open the image in Microsoft Paint and Save it. Paint will auto convert JPEG images to baseline format.

"Please Wait" message shows up often and takes long time to go away

Each time you connect a media player or change its network settings, a new entry is added to the list of possible network devices in ContentSmart. The program runs a background service to verify that the players listed are online. The service responds quickly when players in the list are online, but reply slowly when dealing with disconnected players because it waits for a network timeout before determining an offline status. (●)

To improve response times, remove unused players by right clicking on the player in the list and selecting *Remove from list*.

Planar Systems, Inc.
Customer Service
24x7 Online Technical Support: http://www.planar.com/support

Support
Tel: 1-866-PLANAR1 (866-752-6271) or +1 503-748-1100
Hours: M-F, 8am - 8pm Eastern Time | M-F, 5am - 5pm Pacific Time

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